

Unnecessary delays in reaching decisions on individual nomenclatorial problems involving controversial, though not necessarily difficult, issues: need for the avoidance of

9. Arising out of the discussion on the question of principle raised at the end of Point (7) in Commission Paper I.C.(48)19, recorded in Conclusion 8 above, THE COMMISSION:—

- (1) took note of, and disapproved, the unnecessary delays which had been allowed to occur in reaching a decision on the question of the type species of the genus *Colymbus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Aves);
- (2) placed on record their conviction that, where an application relating to an individual nomenclatorial problem raised controversial, though not necessarily difficult, issues the deliberate adoption of procedures leading to unnecessary delays in reaching a decision was calculated both to prejudice the attainment of stability in the nomenclature of the group concerned and also to impair the authority and prestige of the Commission as an effective, impartial international tribunal;
- (3) affirmed their intention in future to avoid all unnecessary delays in reaching decisions on applications of the kind specified in (2) above and to give an answer to such questions promptly and without fear or favour.

Linnean system of binominal nomenclature not available for the nomenclature of monsters: generic and trivial names published for such purposes to have no status in zoological nomenclature

10. THE COMMISSION had under consideration:—

- (a) a communication received from Professor R. T. Leiper (United Kingdom) (file Z.N.(S.)285) drawing attention to the misuse of the Linnean system of nomenclature to denominate certain types of monster (1) by Gurlt (1832, *Lehrbuch der pathologischen Anatomie*), who had erected for various monsters a number of so-called "genera" (each given a Latin generic name), including one named "Schistosomus", to which various so-called "species" (each given a Latin trivial name) were referred, (2) by Eisenbarth (1908, *Wsch. Tierheilk. Viehz.*) in publishing a description of a monster under the so-called "specific name" *Schistosoma reflexum*, and (3) by Notter (1927, in Virchow's *Arch. f. path. Anat.*) who had followed the same practice in a paper entitled "*Schistosomen beim Schwein*";
- (b) a note on the above case submitted by the Secretary in Point (8) in Commission Paper I.C.(48)19.

It was generally agreed that it was a misuse of the Linnean system of binominal nomenclature to apply it for the nomenclature of monsters. Such a use of the binominal system was particularly objectionable, when (as in the present case) one of the so-called generic names (*Schistosoma*) was identical with the name of a genus of the Animal Kingdom of great importance in an applied field of science (e.g. medicine). In this particular case, confusion had already arisen, the papers by Eisenbarth (1908) and Notter (1927) having appeared in a bibliography of Schistosomiasis.

#### THE COMMISSION agreed :—

- (1) to recommend that words should be inserted in the *Règles* to make it clear that Latin names given to monsters possess no status in zoological nomenclature under the *Règles* and therefore that no name so given preoccupies a generic name under Article 34 or a trivial name under Article 35 ;
- (2) to invite the attention of teratologists to the grave inconvenience and risk of confusion likely to arise through the use of the Linnean system of binominal nomenclature for the naming of monsters, with a view to securing their concurrence in the abandonment of this practice.

**Applications relating to individual problems of nomenclature : cases published in the " Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature " to have priority of consideration**

**11. THE ACTING PRESIDENT (MR. FRANCIS HEMMING)** suggested that the Commission should now direct their attention to the applications relating to individual problems of nomenclature, the texts of which had already been published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. The Parts of the *Bulletin* containing such applications were Parts 5, 8, 9, 10, and 11. Some considerable time had elapsed since the earlier of these applications had been published and members of the Commission had therefore had ample time to consider the issues involved.

THE COMMISSION approved the proposal submitted by the Acting President, as specified above.

**Part 5 of Volume I of the " Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature " : consideration of applications published in**

**12. THE COMMISSION** had before them Part 5 of Volume 1 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* containing five applications relating to individual problems of nomenclature, in addition to fourteen applications relating to the amendment or clarification of the *Règles*, which had already been considered by the Commission at earlier meetings during their present Session.